



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In July, school employment falls and summer agricultural, construction, and recreation activity grows. Since summer seasonal activity did not outpace the loss of school jobs, the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent in July 2004 from June 2004. Five times in the past 25 years, the area's unemployment rate has shown no change between June and July. The rate has increased 13 times and decreased seven times and the fluctuation usually depends on when schools close. The MSA's unemployment rate in July was three-tenths of a percentage point lower than the state rate of 4.9 percent and nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the U.S. rate of 5.5 percent.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates fluctuated little between June and July 2004 in most Southeast Idaho counties. Caribou County had the largest rate of change of all counties, as shown in Southeast Idaho Table 2. Caribou County's unemployment rate fell six-tenths of a percentage point from June to July because the number of unemployed individuals fell by 28. The only other county to experience a large rate change was Power County, which increased 1.9 percent between

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Jul 2004*	Jun 2004	Jul 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,470	41,280	40,530	0.5	2.3
Unemployment	1,900	1,880	2,110	1.1	-10.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.6	5.2		
Total Employment	39,570	39,400	38,420	0.4	3.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,170	40,660	39,270	-1.2	2.3
Unemployment	1,800	1,750	1,990	2.9	-9.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.3	5.1		
Total Employment	38,370	38,910	37,280	-1.4	2.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	32,760	33,450	32,080	-2.1	2.1
Goods-Producing Industries	4,220	4,170	4,300	1.2	-1.9
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,710	1,650	1,710	3.6	0.0
Manufacturing	2,500	2,510	2,580	-0.4	-3.1
Food Manufacturing	460	460	420	0.0	9.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	110	110	100	0.0	10.0
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,900	1,910	2,030	-0.5	-6.4
Service-Providing Industries	28,540	29,280	27,780	-2.5	2.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,020	6,980	6,760	0.6	3.8
Wholesale Trade	1,030	1,010	990	2.0	4.0
Retail Trade	4,610	4,610	4,490	0.0	2.7
Utilities	40	40	40	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,340	1,320	1,240	1.5	8.1
Information	680	690	610	-1.4	11.5
Financial Activities	1,710	1,740	1,930	-1.7	-11.4
Professional & Business Services	3,670	3,650	3,410	0.5	7.6
Educational & Health Services	2,630	2,680	2,790	-1.9	-5.7
Leisure & Hospitality	3,380	3,340	3,300	1.2	2.4
Other Services	880	950	920	-7.4	-4.3
Government Education	3,900	4,670	3,810	-16.5	2.4
Government Administration	4,660	4,570	4,250	2.0	9.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeast Idaho Table 2: July 2004
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southeast Idaho Counties

	July 2004 Preliminary	June 2004 Revised	July 2003 History
Bear Lake	4.7%	4.5%	4.3%
Bingham	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%
Caribou	7.3%	6.7%	7.1%
Franklin	2.7%	2.6%	3.3%
Oneida	2.3%	2.8%	3.1%
Power	9.3%	1.0%	8.4%

June and July. Temporary lay-offs in *Manufacturing – Food Processing* caused the rate increase.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 690 from June to July 2004. The loss of 770 jobs in *Government Education* caused the large decline. The *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 50 jobs from June to July. *Construction* increased from 1,650 to 1,710, a gain of 60 jobs. *Manufacturing* decreased from 2,510 jobs in June to 2,500 jobs in July for a loss of 10 jobs. *Manufacturing* often fluctuates minimally from month to month and the ten-job loss is typical. The *Service-Providing Industries* lost 740 jobs from June to July. Job losses occurred in both *Government Education* and *Educational & Health Services*, the result of school closures. *Government Administration*

added 90 jobs because of temporary hiring for parks and recreation activity, and road construction projects. Special events and increased tourists traveling throughout the area created additional jobs in *Leisure & Hospitality* (40) and *Professional & Business Services* (20).

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Bannock County

- Infrastructure improvements in Old Town Pocatello are about 16 days behind schedule. Construction began in early June and was projected to take approximately 90 days, but removal of large boulders and problems with parts have delayed the project. Despite construction difficulties, Old Town businesses are accessible and remain open.
- Two Shoshone-Bannock fire crews were called to assist with the Boardman Fire near Featherville. Each crew consists of 20 firefighters. Once the Boardman Fire is under control the Shoshone-Bannock crews will likely be deployed to assist with fires in other parts of Central Idaho.
- Pocatello High School's new \$3.2 million gymnasium was completed in August and was ready for the fall 2004 school year. Construction began earlier this year and its completion has been widely anticipated by students as well as the community. The structure's outside matches the 100-year-old plus school and abuts the school's existing building.

Bear Lake County

- HomeQuest Mortgage opened in Montpelier. The office is located at 358 Washington, Suite 10, and offers mortgage financing, debt consolidation assistance, refinancing, and construction loans.
- Governor Kempthorne approved a drought emergency declaration for Bear Lake County. Bear Lake County irrigators receive water from storage in Bear Lake. Inflow to Bear Lake between April and July was 22 percent of average. Area irrigators will receive less than 40 percent of their normal allotment of water this year.

Caribou County

- Dr. Bryan S. Anderson has started practicing family medicine in Caribou County. An open house was held in Soda Springs and Grace, where the new physician will divide his time. Dr. Anderson's practice will be at the Lakeview Medical Clinic in Soda Springs and the Grace Clinic in Grace.

- A new physical therapy clinic, Sports Therapy and Athletic Rehabilitation, opened in Soda Springs. The clinic is located on Highway 30 near Bowman Chiropractic.

Franklin County

- An Internet distribution business in Oxford rapidly became a manufacturing business. XO Corporation manufactures whelping boxes. The business, which is still Internet and phone driven, recently purchased a larger facility so it can expand its product lines.
- Construction on the new Preston High School library and cafeteria will continue during the current school year. Completion is expected by the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. Fences were installed to provide a safety zone and routes for students to move between buildings safely.

Oneida County

- Oneida County is on the move. Richard Westerberg, the economic development specialist for Oneida, Franklin, and Bear Lake Counties has set up an office in Malad. The Malad City/Oneida County Economic Development office is located at 59 Bannock Street. Westerberg has been working on economic development in Oneida County for the past two years, and will be available to assist businesses and the community every Thursday or more often if needed.

Power County

- Great American Video has opened in American Falls. The store is located on Idaho Street and offers new and used VHS and DVD movies, video games, and accessories. Great American Video provides free popcorn to shoppers and shows free kids movies. The business employs approximately 15 people.

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